

Inventor: Bruce C. Johnson

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when flexed acting to stabilize the outer wall tissue and thereby prevent the outer wall tissue of the first and second nasal passages from drawing in during breathing; and

a resilient member defining at least a portion of the first and second end regions and the intermediate segment, whereby the resilient member, in being capable, at least in part, of resilient deformation, allows the truss member to conform to the outer wall tissue of the nasal passages of a nose and provides the inherent tendency of the truss member to return to its [normally planar] initial state when flexed.

8. (Amended) A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a [section of human anatomy] user's nose, said dilator being of a single body comprising:

a truss [of a single body] having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces which, if forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces due to plastic material therein; and engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces.

10. (Twice amended) [The dilator of claim 8 wherein] A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces which, if forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in

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restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces, due to said truss [includes] including a resilient member [providing said restoring forces and said truss tending to restore said spacing between said end surfaces thereof], there being a deformable material between exposed surfaces of any outer wall tissues engaged by said engagement means and said resilient member; and
engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging expose surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against the restoring forces.

12. (Amended) [The dilator of claim 8 wherein] A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss of a single body having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces which, if forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging expose surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against the restoring forces, said truss and said engagement means together [are] being formed as a strip having a length substantially greater than either its width and thickness, and a width substantially greater than its thickness substantially everywhere along said length.

14. (Twice amended) [The dilator of claim 8 wherein said] A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having a pair of spaced [-] apart end surfaces [of said truss are] terminated by end edges at opposite ends of said truss which, if forced toward one

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another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces due to [and wherein said truss includes] a resilient member [providing said restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said spacing between end surfaces thereof] included therein, said resilient member having opposite ends thereof each ending short of said end edges; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging expose surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against the restoring forces.

15. (Amended) [The dilator of claim 9 wherein] A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose to restrain those tissues from being drawn in during breathing, said dilator comprising:

a truss of a single body having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces which, if forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces sufficient to substantially maintain during inhalation that spacing occurring between said end surfaces prior to inhalation, said end surfaces [are] being limited in separation therebetween so that, when said end surfaces are engaging outer wall tissues of a human nose adjacent nasal passages therein, a surface of said truss can be in contact with said nose for substantially all of that extent thereof between said end surfaces; and

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engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against the restoring forces.

Please add the following claims:

23. A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, comprising:

a truss with a resilient member secured therein having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces which, if forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces; and
engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces.

24. An external nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator being of a single body comprising:

a truss having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces which, if forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces due to plastic material therein; and
engagement means on said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces.